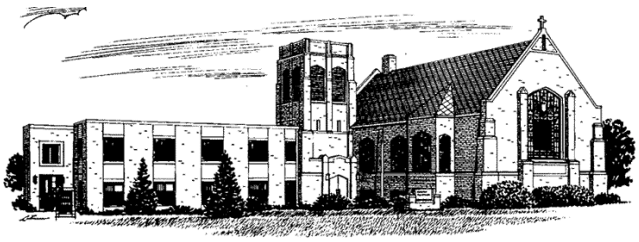


SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Bell Choir Director
Email: mroll@saronlutheran.org
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
Denise Cook, Financial Secretary

Sundays at Saron:
During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

*Summers (**beginning Memorial Day weekend**):*
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

All are welcome!
We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the
North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal
Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

July 2015

Our bags are not yet packed (well, at least not mine!) The snacks for the trip have not been purchased.

But the reservations are made, the fundraisers are nearer completion (yes, we are still receiving clean, empty returnable pop cans), our service projects are well underway (check out the clean pews, mown grass, and after this weekend, the freshly painted yellow lines in the parking lot, weather pending).

Yes, Austin, Connor, Danielle, Drew, Marcus Roll and I are readying ourselves for the ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit, under the theme – Rise Up Together! We will be sent off with a service of commissioning at worship on July 12.

As stated in the introductory materials, we will share in a variety of service learning experiences, explore and strengthen our faith by studying God's word, serving our neighbor, sharing bread and wine in worship, participating in lively faith discussions and broadening our experience of God's world. (ELCA website)

You can join us by going to the ELCA website and watch the Livestream of events. Or, you can follow us on Social Media. The information is here—
http://www.elca.org/YouthGathering.

We look forward to sharing our experience with you! Please hold us in prayer, as well as the nearly 30,000 other attendees!

Pastor Joan

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –

We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Ev Maki** is at Caretel; **Lila Roethel and Eleanor Anderson** are at the Willows; **Dorris Doutt** is at Woodland Terrace, Bridgman Stevensville.

Serving in the military:

Andy Wedde – North Carolina

Office Hours at Saron

Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9 AM - 11 AM+
Denise (financial secretary): times vary
Call for other times/changes

Pastor: most mornings, except Fridays
When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.
Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in July 2015

July 3 - Ellie Hammer
4 – Andrew Huff
7 - Preston Akers
8 - Elliott de la Foret
9 – Barbara Stelter
11 - Thomas Freemire
12 - Scott Gaspari
14 - Kylie Hammer
15 - Joyce Marquardt
17 - Andrew Gustafson
21 - Marge Teal
23 – Lauren (Olson) Kauffman
25 – John Koehler
26 – Pastor Joan Oleson
28 - Helena Kepp
29 – Ilo Coar

Happy Anniversary Wishes to Saron's Members In July 2015

July 3 – Adam and Shavonn Bradley
12 – Rian and Judi Huff
14 – Gus and Wendy Leoni
15 – James and Katherine Nadeau
22 – Keith and Jan Stevens
25 – Brent and Linda Dipert
26 - John and Candy Taylor

"God's Blessings for a very happy day and year round"

If there is anyone who has been omitted, or, if the dates are incorrect from the birthday and anniversary list, please call the church office at 983-1273. Thank you.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

Sunday July 5 —
Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Ezekiel 2:1-5
Psalm 123
Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-13

Sunday July 12 —
Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Amos 7:7-15
Psalm 85:8-13
Ephesians 1:3-14
Mark 6:14-29

Sunday July 19 —
Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm 23
Ephesians 2:11-22
Mark 6:30-34, 53-56

Sunday July 26 —
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
2 Kings 4:42-44
Psalm 145:10-18
Ephesians 3:14-21
John 6:1-21

PRAYER GROUP

Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

SUMMER BEACH WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Once again, Saron members and friends can take advantage of the beauty of Lake Michigan as a setting for informal summer worship. Once a month -- July 22, and August 12, all Wednesday nights -- we will gather at Lion's Park Beach for a picnic supper at 6, followed by worship at 7. The church will provide hot dogs, brats, condiments, chips, and lemonade. Others are invited to bring a dish to share. Looking forward to seeing everyone there! **On July 22 our gathering** will include an ice cream social provided by our Youth who went to Detroit. Worship will include reflections on their week. Join stockholders for this special evening

FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP

The 2015 Flower Chart is now posted in the narthex. Flowers can be purchased for worship by signing up on the flower chart in the narthex. Cost is $25. Please write "flowers" on the memo line of your check or on your envelope with cash. The flowers are ordered through the church office, unless otherwise designated. Please bring back the empty vases to give back to the florist. THANKS!

Learning

book of faith

Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

Vacation Bible School

Monday – Thursday
August 3-6
6:30-8:30 pm.
KDG – 5th Grade
Theme: Animal Crackers!

Participants will learn to see themselves as part of the global family and gain a deeper appreciation of the ways in which people, animals and plants live in harmony as God's good creation.

Questions? Contact Jack Houser at 556.0377.
Want to Register? Call the church office or pick up a registration at church.

EPHESUS BIBLE STUDY GROUP

This is a study group for men and women, singles or couples. The group meets on the third Sunday of each month, rotating among homes of those who normally attend. The sessions begin at 3:30 pm, and conclude with a light meal. We will be starting a new study in July, from the Animate series, titled **God: Faith is a Quest**. Our next meeting will be Sunday, July 19, at the home of the Kynast's, 4153 Courtney, St. Joseph. New members are welcome, but please call to let us know how many to plan for. If you are interested, contact Bob or Mary Kynast (418.0148).

Tuesday Mornings at the Beach

Begin your day with prayer and Bible study at the beach this summer! Bring your travel cup of coffee or tea, a jacket, and your Bible for a gathering on Tuesday mornings at 8:30. We meet at Lions Park Beach in Saint Joseph. Plan to get your free parking pass (as a St Joseph resident) at City Hall, take a brief walk after parking down Lions Park Drive, arrange to car pool from the church, or pay the $5 daily parking fee. A season pass for $40 is also available. Questions? Contact Pastor

1st Sunday Book Group

We are taking our summer break and will resume meeting again October 4, 2015. Following are the selections we have made for our 2015-2016 season

October 4, 2015 *The Husband's Secret, by Liane Moriarty*
November 1, 2015 *All the Light We Cannot See, by Anthony Doerr*
December 6, 2015 *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin*
February 14, 2016 *(note change to 2nd Sunday) The Pearl That Broke It's Shell, by Nadia Hashimi*
March 6, 2016 *The Girl on the Train, by Paula Hawkins*
April 3, 2016 *What the Lady Wants; A Novel of Marshall Field and the Gilded Age, by Renee Rosen*
May 1, 2016 *My Salinger Year, by Joanna Rakoff*

Have a summer of good reads and remember; *The more you read, the more you know. The more you know, the smarter you grow. The smarter you grow, the stronger your voice when speaking your mind or making your choice!*

Men's monthly Bible Devotions and Breakfast
Men's Bible Devotions/Breakfast will not meet in July. They will again meet in August.

Outreach

Benton Harbor Area Schools S.M.A.R.T. Tutoring Program
One hour of "one on one" teaching DOES make a difference in the lives of the student and the mentor! After a relaxing summer, please consider participating in this Outreach opportunity in the Fall.

BLOOD DRIVE

Saron and Michigan Blood held a successful Blood Drive on June 18. A total of 14 people attempted to donate a pint of blood. ONE pint of blood can help to save THREE lives! Thanks to everyone who participated in the Blood Drive, especially coordinators Keith Stevens and Joyce Marquardt. Next BLOOD DRIVE will be in October - mark your calendars.

Thank you, Outreach Committee

Meet me at the Freezer
Saron has meals available in the dining room freezer. Please take one to another member, friend or neighbor - anyone in need. A meal, hug, phone call or visit are all ways we can show God's love. Contact Jan Stevens @ 429-2044 for more information.

CROP WALK
The 36th Annual Blossomland CROP WALK was held on May 17,2015. A big thank you to Saron's walkers for raising $ 1,292, in support of this community event. Keep walking and consider joining us next Spring! Thanks, Outreach Committee

Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen
Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen- May 28, 2015. Saron served 152 folks at the Soup Kitchen -busy day! Along with Betty Ross, Ruth Ball, Jan Stevens, Richard and Marlene Schalon we had several students from the Lakeshore Leadership Class join us in preparing our meal.

It was a pleasure having Connor Ashley, and his classmates Lindsay and Ann participate in this Outreach opportunity.

Thanks cookies bakers: Marilyn Frey, Deanna Deaton, Coanne Hohman, Alissa Oleson, Judi Huff and Joyce Marquardt :) . Delicious! If you would like to join us please contact Jan Stevens.

LARGE cans of fruit are always needed for our day at the Soup Kitchen, THANKS!

LWR Fair Trade

We support Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade farmers through our selling of coffee, tea, and cocoa at cost. We have flavored coffee, decaf, medium and dark roast coffees, black and green teas, and now we are offering Keurig cups. Please support this ministry by purchasing these products regularly for yourself and as gifts. Thank you.

Used Eye Glass Collection

If you have any used glasses that are no longer of use to you, bring them in and place them in the box located in the narthex. They are collected by the local Lions organization for their mission trips to assist people to see once again. The work is an ongoing task of the Lions. Thank You. Keith Stevens, St. Joseph Twp Lions

Women of the ELCA

Deborah Circle

Deborah Circle will gather on Wednesday, July 8, 2015, for dinner at 6:30 p.m. at Cravings Restaurant in Benton Harbor.

Dorcas Circle – June l7

Since two of our Dorcas sisters are at the Willows (Eleanor and Lila) we brought them some pre-lunch piano music: three were sing-alongs. What fun!: We had lunch (Shepherd's Pie), read together the 23rd Psalm, then sang a verse of "Onward Christian Soldiers". It was a great time of friendship and fellowship.

RUMMAGE SALE RESULTS

Saron Church Women thanks everyone who participated in the Rummage Sale held on June 13th. We applaud those who donated items, helped to set up, priced, worked the day of the sale, donated lunch, boxed left-over items, cleaned up, and moved tables. Sales, after newspaper ad expenses, totaled $1,512.36. Proceeds will be equally divided between LSSM (Lutheran Social Services of Michigan) and the Salvation Army.

Thanks, again, everyone!

Hospitality

Sign Up for Refreshments

Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays.

There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

Support

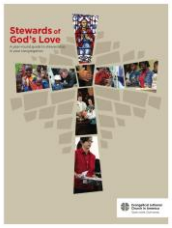
STOCK DONATIONS

Saron partners with Scottrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock, contact our representative, Bill Fuentas, at (574) 272-1980. The statements we receive from Scottrade do not identify who donated the stock so please notify Dave Bradley or Denise Cook when you have donated. This allows us to complete the transaction and to be sure it's added to your giving statement. If you have further questions or concerns contact Dave Bailey or Denise Cook.

A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving

Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks

STEWARDS OF GOD'S LOVE



You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your Soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. And a second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:37b-39

God of compassion, your Son came among us not to be served but to serve. We give you thanks for the people of Saron who give so generously of their time, talents and treasure. Give us faith to serve you with gladness; sustain us with a living hope, especially in the time of despair; and kindle in us your love, so that we see in every neighbor the face of Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray.*

**Paraphrased from the ELW Additional Prayers, page 74.*

Endowment Committee

The Endowment Fund is created by donations to the fund from members of the congregation, designated memorials for members and from estate planning. These funds are invested and the gain from investments is used for three categories: Global, Local and Saron Building. Each year the committee meets several times to evaluate requests for the funds and awards these funds in an amount to balance the spending in each of the categories. The awards are then reviewed and approved by your Church Council before spending is allocated. Donations to the Endowment Committee may be made at any time by designating any donation for Endowment Fund or as part of estate planning.

The Endowment Committee met in May to determine the allocation for funds available for spending. Areas available for allocation for this period are Local and Saron Building projects. The following were reviewed and approved for spending:

1. Local: A request was received from supporters of the SW Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force for funds to purchase a banner to be used for education sessions, which displays their purpose and emblem. Although the estimated cost is $150, the committee opted to award $500 to allow them to purchase additional banners or provide additional funds for education as needed.
2. Saron Building: The White Board and Door Window project was previously awarded by the Committee, but spending for the project exceeded the awarded funds. To complete the project and install white boards in all the classrooms required an additional award of $1,640. The Committee approved the additional spending to allow completion of this project.

The Committee also made suggestions for future Saron Building projects that had been received from various sources to allow for future planning of projects.

Council News

Attendance Record	
05/24/2015	*79*
05/31/2015	*74*
06/07/2015	*100*
06/14/2015	*69*
06/21/2015	*91*

Saron's Council Members – 2015

Mary Kynast (428-0148) – President
Jan Stevens (429-2044) – Vice President
Dave Bradley (427-70834) – Treasurer
Mary Alice Brunner (248-767-9026) – Secretary
Mary Alice Brunner (248-767-9026) – Worship*
Jack Houser (556-0377) - Learning*
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Facilities*
Ken Ark (269-369-4766) – Facilities*
Scott Gaspari (847-373-8825) – Youth*
Austin Kamala – (269-930-5989) – Youth*
Joyce Marquardt (408-8650) – Support*
Dave Bradley (427-70834) - Support
Frieda Williams (556-7269) – Hospitality*
Jan Stevens (429-2044) – Outreach*
Joan Oleson (983-1273 office;
983-2475 home) – Pastor
**liaison*

Youth

WE'RE GOING TO DETROIT!

Saron's youth are heading to Detroit for the ELCA Youth Gathering in July. Thank you to all who have contributed to our trip through one of our fundraisers!

POP CANS

Please save your returnable pop cans. They can be dropped off into the bin at the office door. Or, you can return your bottles and cans and bring in the receipt for the youth to redeem. Thank you!

Thanks ahead of time for your support! An ice cream social will be part of the festivities at the Beach Worship on July 22! Come, hear about our trip and enjoy some ice cream!

Facilities

GOLDEN HAMMERS NEED HELP!

Golden Hammers is a group of volunteers at Saron that meets every Wednesday from 9:30 up to noon. They are women and men that gather to do various jobs in and outside of the church that help keep Saron looking good and also saving the church a considerable amount of money in cleaning and maintenance expenses. The work is not hard - mainly folding bulletins, preparing the monthly newsletter for mailing, preparing the sanctuary for Sunday morning, minor maintenance and cleaning/vacuuming of the church. If you would like to have more information on volunteering please talk to Dennis or Colleen Lundgren, Bill Oleson or Pastor Joan.

LAWN MOWERS NEEDED

Lawn mowers needed for the summer. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex, the church furnishes the mower and the gas. Please sign up to help the church save money on the lawn mowing and keep our grounds looking good. If you have any questions please see or notify Bill Oleson.
"Thanks!" from the **Golden Hammers**

Living Water Ministries
Faith Formation, Service, Leadership, and Community

It's not too early to start thinking about summer camp. Consider our synod's camping ministry.
http://www.elcalivingwater.com/

SYNOD NEWS

If you would like to learn more about our synod, the North/West Lower Michigan Synod, or read synod news, check out the synod website at www.mittensynod.org.

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Check out www.elca.org for news of our churchwide organization. You can also find stories about life in the ELCA on http://www.elca.org/Living-Lutheran. There are stories, blogs, photos, and a feature called "Ask a Pastor.

Vision Statements:

Facilities
Create a physical environment that will support our ministry

Hospitality – Inclusivity and Welcoming
Offer for all, Christ's radical hospitality.

Worship
Provide enhanced relevant worship experiences.

Outreach
Serve our community with 100% participation of those who worship at Saron.

Youth
Strive to encourage each of our youth to grow into their unique potential for a Christ centered life.

Learning
Center our lives in Christ through life-long learning

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR JULY 2015

July 5 9:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Jan Stevens
Reader/Com.Assist: Karen Hinkley
Acolyte: TBD
Ushers: Dave and Kathie Bradley
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and Lindsay Gaspari
Building Closing: Bob and Mary Kynast

July 12 9:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Connor Ashley
Reader Intinction: Colleen Lundgren
Acolytes: EBD
Ushers: Ken Ark and Austin Kamala
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and Ruth Stelling
Building Closing: Dan Gustafson

July 19 9:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Denise Cook
Reader/Com. Assist: John Hoodlebrink
Ushers: Jim Manore and Allen Snyder
Acolyte: TBD
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and Marlene Schalon
Building Closing: Bruce and Linda Huff

July 26 9:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Bill Oleson
Reader/Intinction: Bob Kynast
Ushers: Dave and Sue Bailey
Acolyte: TBD
Nursery: Krista Blaylock and Mary Kynast
Building Closing: Steve Bell

Thank you for your willingness to serve. If a conflict arises for your scheduled time, please find a replacement or change with another volunteer. Calling the church office (983-1273) to alert us to changes will help us keep the bulletin as accurate as possible and know that everyone is in place on a Sunday morning.

Graduate Blessing 2015
Congratulations to Drew, Connor, Juliet, Stephania and Pauline!

Synod Assembly Report

Overall, the synod assembly was a positive experience and I would attend it again.

Those who attended were asked to choose tracks for study or service. I chose to attend the "Renewing Our Congregation" track with these three "kindred groups":

- The Changing World of Stewardship
- Faith Formation for the 21st Century
- Speaking With Boldness

From those groups I learned that 1) there is still much work to be done 2) we are called to respect each person's opinion 3) we need to be open to suggestions 4) we may be called to step outside our comfort zone 5) we must trust in God to lead us in ways that will make a difference in the Church.

Tyler Cook

Synod Assembly Report

As attendees we were offered a glimpse of the business side of the synod including participating in voting for our synod leaders.

We heard five minute presentations from six mission partners including Augsburg Fortress, and Lutheran Social Services.

Rev. Walter F. Taylor delivered a talk entitled "Paul's Newly Discovered Epistle to the Mitten Synodians". His presentation resembled the way Paul addressed the Christian churches of the New Testament.

As my track I chose to work at the City Rescue Mission Upscale Thrift Shop where I sorted and tagged clothing for a few hours on Monday afternoon.

Bishop Satterlee led the assembly and asked that, since we would not be allowed to where tongues of fire on our heads, we wear a hat representing our vocation or avocation to the Tuesday worship service.

The synod assembly offered opportunities for worship each day and Monday evening we participated in a hymn sing.

Informational displays for partnering organizations/resources along with fair trade items were set up outside of the main meeting hall.

I enjoyed the assembly very much and was struck by the obvious joyfulness in worship of the participants. It was also uplifting to hear the affirmation that in the midst of all of the changes in the church, Christ is with us guiding us through what might be uncharted territory and charging us to march on as he leads us blanketed by the Holy Spirit.

Denise Cook

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

JULY 2015

We're on Facebook! Like us at
www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

Blood Drive at Saron

Southwest Michigan Human Trafficking Task Force Banner – purchased by Saron

July 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	JUNE S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30	August S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	1 9:30am Golden Hammers	2	3	4 **NO** Men's Devotion/Breakfast *Independence Day*
5 *Sixth Sunday after Pentecost* 9:30 a.m. Worship Holy Communion	6 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	7 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park	8 9:30am Golden Hammers 6:30 p.m. Deborah Circle dinner at Cravings Restaurant	9	10	11
12 *Seventh Sunday after Pentecost* 9:30 a.m. Worship Holy Communion	13 9:00 a.m. Newsletter Articles Due 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	14 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park 3:30 p.m. Vasa Meeting at Saron	15 9:30am Golden Hammers	16 Youth at ELCA	17 Youth Gathering -	18 Detroit
19 *Eighth Sunday after Pentecost* 9:30 a.m. Worship Holy Communion 3:30 p.m. Ephesus Bible Study at the Kynast's Youth back from gathering	20 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m Saron Council Meeting	21 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park	22 9:30am Golden Hammers 6:00 p.m. Picnic at Lions Park with 7:00 p.m. Worship	23 Soup Kitchen Pastor on vacation	24 ----------	25 ----------
26 *Ninth Sunday after Pentecost* 9:30 a.m. Worship Holy Communion ----------	27 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group ----------	28 8:30 a.m. Beach Bible Study at Lions Park ----------	29 9:30am Golden Hammers _____	30 Pastor back from vacation	31	